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## New Entrepreneurship Competency Model Unveiled!

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The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education (CEE) in partnership with The US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration has collaborated in producing a 21st Century Competency Model for future entrepreneurs. The new entrepreneurial competency framework identifies personal, academic, general workplace, and entrepreneurial competencies that are featured in the competency model as one of 11 Industry-based Competency Models on the website - <http://www.careeronestop.org/competencymodel/pyramid.aspx>.

According to Susan Rice, of the West Virginia Department of Education and President of the Consortium, "In an economy that is becoming more competitive, workers in every career cluster need an entrepreneurial skill set that ensures success. The Consortium was pleased to be asked to partner with DOL and provide the National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education and entrepreneurship education experts as resources for the DOL Entrepreneurship Competency Model project."

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education worked with focus groups of entrepreneurs across the nation to identify what entrepreneurs need to know and be able to do to succeed as business creators. The resulting National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education became a critical resource for building the DOL Competency Model. Users of the Content Standards helped validate the research work of the experts with the US DOL/ETA.

The DOL Entrepreneurship Competency Model compliments the States Career Clusters Initiative in the education community as both are intended to help students, teachers, parents, workforce investment system staff, and potential employees understand the entrepreneurial competencies essential to the 21st Century Workplace. More and more we see that "*Entrepreneurship Empowers Everyone*" in the today's workplaces.

According to Kimberly Green, National Association of State Directors of Career & Technical Education, "I have always been a strong supporter for inclusion of entrepreneurship in each of the 16 Career Clusters currently being used in Education K-14. The Competency Model from DOL helps cement the partnership between education and labor as we prepare a competitive workforce of tomorrow and encourage all educators to address entrepreneurial skills. Academic skills are often more meaningful for students when presented in an entrepreneurship context."

"Since small businesses have created the majority of new jobs over the last few decades, in a period of major economic restructuring it is essential that education and labor have a competency model focusing on essential entrepreneurial skills to help stimulate new business creation. It is not enough to know how to fix a computer network or build a house, one must have the appropriate entrepreneurial skills to make it a successful business", according to Hank Kopcial, NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation and officer of the Consortium.

Dr. Cathy Ashmore, executive director of the Consortium says "The work we have just completed in cross-walking the Consortium Entrepreneurship Standards with the DOL Competency Model reinforces our belief that entrepreneurship in some form should be part of all 16 Career Clusters. As a feature of National Entrepreneurship Week 2009 the Consortium is presenting a **Proposal for Entrepreneurial Skill Building** that will impact all educators and employment trainers who believe that our economy needs entrepreneurs." [www.entre-ed.org](http://www.entre-ed.org)

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